



NOW from NORTH AMERICA



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Of the 815 million chronically food-insecure and malnourished people in the world, 489 million live in countries affected by conflict. - The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017

WELCOME!

“After steadily declining for over a decade, global hunger is on the rise again, affecting 815 million people in 2016, or 11 per cent of the global population. That’s 38 million more people than the previous year. A primary culprit? You guessed it: conflict.”

- José Graziano da Silva,
Director-General, FAO

Dear reader,

I am pleased to present to you the inaugural newsletter chronicling our activities over the last month and providing you snippets from happenings at FAO headquarters in Rome.

The FAO Liaison Office for North America advises and assists in the development and implementation of FAO policies and programs by facilitating communication and cooperation between FAO and the governments of United States and Canada and between FAO and a wide range of stakeholders – private sector, NGOs, academia, think tanks and foundations working on food and agriculture issues in both the countries.

FAO launched its two flagship reports recently – The State of Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI) and State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA). There could be no clearer wake-up call than the new estimates emerging from SOFI 2017. The number of chronically undernourished people in the world has increased for the first time in a decade from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016. Fulfilling the 2030 Agenda would thus depend crucially on progress in rural areas which is where most of the poor and hungry live. SOFA 2017 rightly calls for inclusive rural transformation for eradication of rural poverty and endemic hunger. I am sure you will find both these reports extremely insightful and thought-provoking.

We hope this newsletter caters to your information needs around activities of FAO and we cordially invite you to send us your ideas and suggestions for our future editions.

Sincerely,

Vimlendra Sharan,
Director, FAO Liaison Office for North America

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH AMERICA



Representatives of FAO, Alliance to End Hunger, USAID, AGRA, CSIS, John Deere Foundation and Sociedad Rural Argentina discussed SOFA 2017 findings.

Leveraging Food Systems for Inclusive Rural Transformation at the World Food Prize

18 –20 October 2017, Des Moines - FAO North America participated in the [Borlaug Dialogue and World Food Prize](#) where it hosted a discussion on 2017 State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA), promoted World Food Day, and raised awareness about the role of FAO in North America.

Over 100 people attended the FAO North America - Alliance to End Hunger side event which saw an interactive discussion among key leaders from the global food security and agriculture community about the implications of the SOFA findings, particularly the critical need to position rural communities at the center of efforts to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. To commemorate World Food Day, a [video emphasizing FAO's work to make migration a choice](#) was shown.

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, President of the World Food Prize Foundation, opened the event by expressing his appreciation for the work of FAO. Vimlendra Sharan, presented the main findings of SOFA 2017, and David Beckmann, President of Alliance to End Hunger and Bread for the World, urged the USA to take a lead role in ending global hunger.

In her keynote speech, Agnes Kalibata, President of The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, emphasized that “we cannot afford to work individually anymore. We need to reverse climate change and the number of people going hungry.”

FAO Calls for Smallholder-Friendly Innovations and Healthy Diets



Vimlendra Sharan discussing with Julie Borlaug, Motlatsi Musi and Robert Bertram.

Vimlendra Sharan, Director of FAO North America, served as a panelist at two separate side events at the World Food Prize.

At [Innovations to Improve Smallholder Livelihoods](#) event co-hosted by CropLife International and Devex, Mr. Sharan emphasized the need for innovations to not only be equated with new technology, but also with new ways of accessing markets and information.

Participating in the panel on [Healthy Diets for All: A call for Leadership, Governance and Accountability for Nutrition](#) co-hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition (GloPan), He underlined the urgent need for developing institutional capacity and prioritizing healthy diets, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH AMERICA

SOFI 2017 Report Warns about Increasing Global Hunger

5 October 2017, Washington, DC - FAO North America co-hosted a high-level roundtable with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to discuss the main findings of the [2017 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\)](#). The report highlights the need for action as global hunger is on the rise again, with 815 million people going hungry in 2016, an increase of 38 million over the previous year.

For the first time, the scope of the report has been enhanced to cover nutrition. In keeping with this expanded focus, WHO and UNICEF have joined the traditional partnership of FAO, WFP and IFAD as co-authors of the report.



Representatives of IFPRI, FAO, PAHO, Brookings Institution and 1,000 Days discussed the increase in global hunger.

Addressing the gathering, U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Mass.), co-chair of the House Hunger Caucus said “I hope bells are clanging in all capital cities across the world—including in Washington, DC... Let’s show a human face on those numbers and tell a story.” Read more on the SOFI discussion at IFPRI [here](#) and watch the videos of all speakers [here](#).



E.T. York Distinguished Lecture at Auburn University Alabama

2 October 2017, Auburn University, Alabama – The Director of FAO North America was the Fall 2017 E.T. York Distinguished Lecturer at Auburn University where he spoke on the “Greatest Opportunity of Our Generation: Ending Hunger”. His speech focused on the current state of global hunger and nutrition and the challenges the world faces in eradicating hunger and malnutrition. The event was organized by College of Agriculture and attended by students, faculty, members of the local community and the media.

World Food Day event at McGill University, Montreal, Canada

16 October 2017, Montreal, Canada – Vimlendra Sharan, Director of FAO North America delivered the keynote speech at the World Food Day event organized by the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at McGill University. In his address the Director underlined the nexus between food security and conflict and emphasized that with hunger there could be no hope of progress – a world where people starve could never be safe.



Advancing Integrated Landscape Strategies for the SDGs

25 October 2017 Washington DC - FAO North America and EcoAgriculture co-hosted a roundtable to discuss integrated landscape strategies for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The roundtable saw active participation from government, non-government and industry leaders and focused mainly around how integrative and assertive process among the SGDs and landscapes can be approached.

The roundtable also discussed how key stakeholders have advanced progress to achieve the Goals, and examined what could be done over the next year to move the agenda of landscapes forward within the context of the SDGs.

Tom Pesek, Senior Liaison Officer of FAO North America, emphasized that “in promoting integrated landscape management approaches, FAO seeks to strengthen ownership and empowerment of communities and institutions managing food systems”. Read more [here](#).

FAO GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS



Sonny Perdue, US Secretary of Agriculture with José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO.

U.S. and FAO call for Sound Scientific Standards for Greater Food Safety

14 October 2017, Bergamo – Sonny Perdue, US Secretary of Agriculture and José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO stressed that achieving greater food safety goes hand in hand with the establishment of sound scientific standards for trade in food and agricultural products.

During the talks, Secretary Perdue and Director-General da Silva expressed agreement on various issues to be tackled globally such as implementing the [One Health approach](#) and curbing [Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\)](#), and the use of antibiotics for curative purposes only in agriculture.

Secretary Perdue also joined several other G7 agriculture ministers for [World Food Day](#) celebrations at FAO headquarters in Rome. Read more [here](#).

Committee on World Food Security Stresses the Importance of Sustainable Forestry

9-13 October 2017, Rome - The [44th Session](#) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) endorsed new recommendations on the role of sustainable forestry in achieving food security and nutrition for all.

The recommendations centered on the need for an integrated policy approach to forestry, agriculture, water and food security and nutrition by reinforcing cross-sectoral coordination. A recurring message throughout the week from all stakeholders was the importance of using existing CFS policy guidance, which would make a major difference in governments' ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Over 50 side events enabled participants to explore topics ranging from rural youth employment and entrepreneurship for food and nutrition security, school meals and social protection initiatives in the Middle East and North Africa to climate smart agriculture, and agribusiness mega-mergers' threat to world food security. Read more [here](#).

Pope Francis and G7 Ministers of Agriculture join World Food Day celebrations at FAO

16 October 2017, Rome - At the global ceremony to mark World Food Day, Pope Francis called for governments around the world to collaborate to make migration a safer and voluntary choice, arguing that assuring food security for all requires tackling climate change and ending conflicts.

Ministers of Agriculture of the Group of Seven (G7) nations also shared their thoughts on the occasion. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food of Canada, emphasized that “agricultural development can help address rural poverty, strengthen food security, and provide jobs in rural communities. Ensuring that global trade doors remain open while supporting innovative agriculture can improve the viability of farming”. Read more [here](#).



Lawrence MacAulay, Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food of Canada, delivering his speech during the World Food Day Ceremony.

Fall Armyworm Spreads

FAO released a new [Briefing Note](#) on Actions on Fall Armyworm in Africa. The note includes a map of areas affected by Fall Armyworm as of October 2017. Read more [here](#).

FAO FLAGSHIP PUBLICATIONS

THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2017

BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR PEACE AND FOOD SECURITY



After steadily declining for over a decade, global hunger appears to be on the rise once more, with multiple forms of malnutrition threatening the health of millions.

[The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#) warns that the greater number of conflicts, whose impacts are often exacerbated by climate-related shocks, is one of the main drivers behind this shift. This is threatening to derail the international commitment to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

The report also examines the ways in which food insecurity can trigger conflicts, and provides valuable insights into how food security can help prevent the outbreak of unrest and violence.

Thanks to the collaboration of five UN agencies, with **WHO** and **UNICEF** joining **IFAD**, **WFP** and **FAO**, this report is a first step towards a comprehensive global analysis of the links between food security and nutrition.

[Digital report](#)

[Webcast](#)

THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2017 LEVERAGING FOOD SYSTEMS FOR INCLUSIVE RURAL TRANSFORMATION



Since the 1990s, rural transformations have helped **millions of people to rise out of poverty while remaining in rural areas**. This underscores an important fact: revitalizing rural economies helps create jobs for rural people, offering an alternative to those who might turn to migration in search of a better life.

However, these rural transformations have not happened everywhere.

For the countries that lag behind, [The 2017 State of Food and Agriculture](#) argues that it is not too late. By tapping into the potential of food systems and recognizing the role of small cities and towns in integrated rural-urban planning, inclusive transformations are still possible. Indeed, they will be crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of eradicating poverty and hunger.

[Digital report](#)

[E-book \(Kindle - others\)](#)

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FAO IN THE USA & CANADA

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has deep roots in North America. The Organization was conceived of during a meeting in Hot Springs, Virginia, United States in 1943 and its first headquarters was located in Washington, DC. In 1945, FAO was formally established as a specialized agency by the newly created United Nations during its very first session, which was held in Quebec City, Canada. FAO's headquarters was permanently moved to Rome, Italy in 1951. The FAO Liaison Office for North America based in Washington, DC continues to strengthen the Organization's partnership with Canada and the United States.

FAO shares with Canada and the United States a vision of how to achieve a world without hunger and poverty. Both member states have been working closely with FAO since its inception more than 70 years ago. Canada and the United States both play critically important leadership roles within FAO and they are also among the Organization's largest financial supporters.

FAO's Liaison Office for North America works to support and implement FAO policies and programs through strategic partnerships with governments and other key stakeholders based in Canada and the United States, including civil society organizations, multilateral institutions, research centers and think tanks, the private sector, philanthropic foundations and the media.



[Read more](#) about the United States and FAO.



[Read more](#) about Canada and FAO.

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